

# Agenda: Complex Processes in Nature and Laboratory

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Systems and dynamics, qualifiers

Examples (climate, planetary motion),

Order and Chaos, determinism and stochastic unpredictability

1D dynamics: phase space curves/orbits

Non-linear dynamics in nature and their modeling

Mathematical model ( logistic map, climate,.....)

Stability criteria, stationary states

Self organizing (cooperative) processes & resulting structures

Self-organization/replication in coupled chemical rxns

Cellular automata and fractal structures

Dynamics of interacting multi-particle systems

Interaction energies

Random walk and diffusion,

Fluctuating (Langevin) forces

Boltzmann molecular chaos

## Reading Assignments

Weeks 2&3

**LN I.5-I-6:** Complex processes

**Kondepudi** Ch.19

Additional Material

**J.L. Schiff:**

Cellular Automata,

Ch.1, Ch. 3.1-3.6

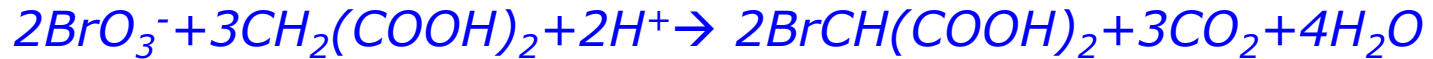
**McQuarrie & Simon**

Math Chapters

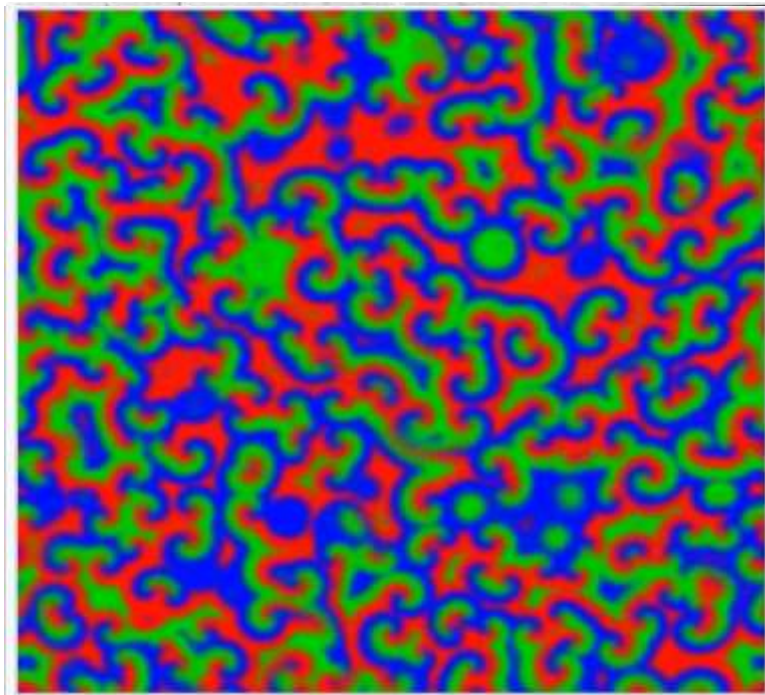
MC B, C, D,

# Cooperative Belousov-Zhabotinski (BZ) Reaction

Oxidation of malonic acid with cerium bromate,  $CeBr_3$  (Kondepudi & Prigogine Ch. 19)

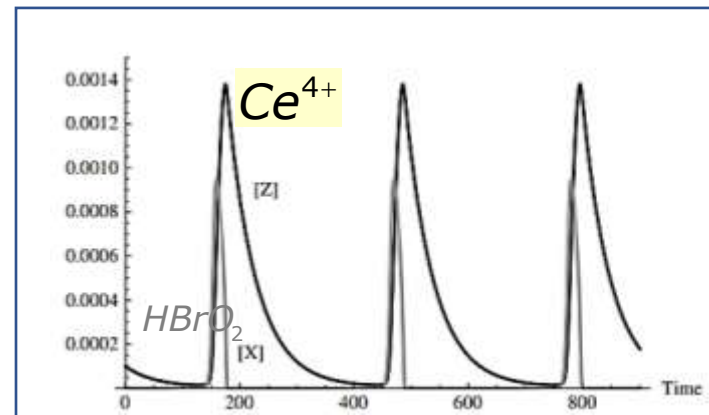
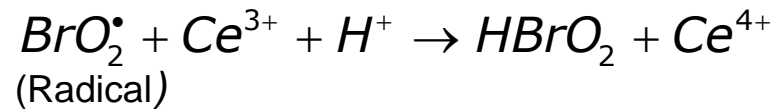


→ Spatially correlated colored traveling domain patterns on reactor surface.



$Ce$  = catalyst,  $[Ce] \approx \text{const.}$ , but oscillations between  $Ce^{3+}$  and  $Ce^{4+}$ , → alternating colors.

Intermediate reaction step



$Ce^{3+} \rightarrow Ce^{4+}$  oscillations →

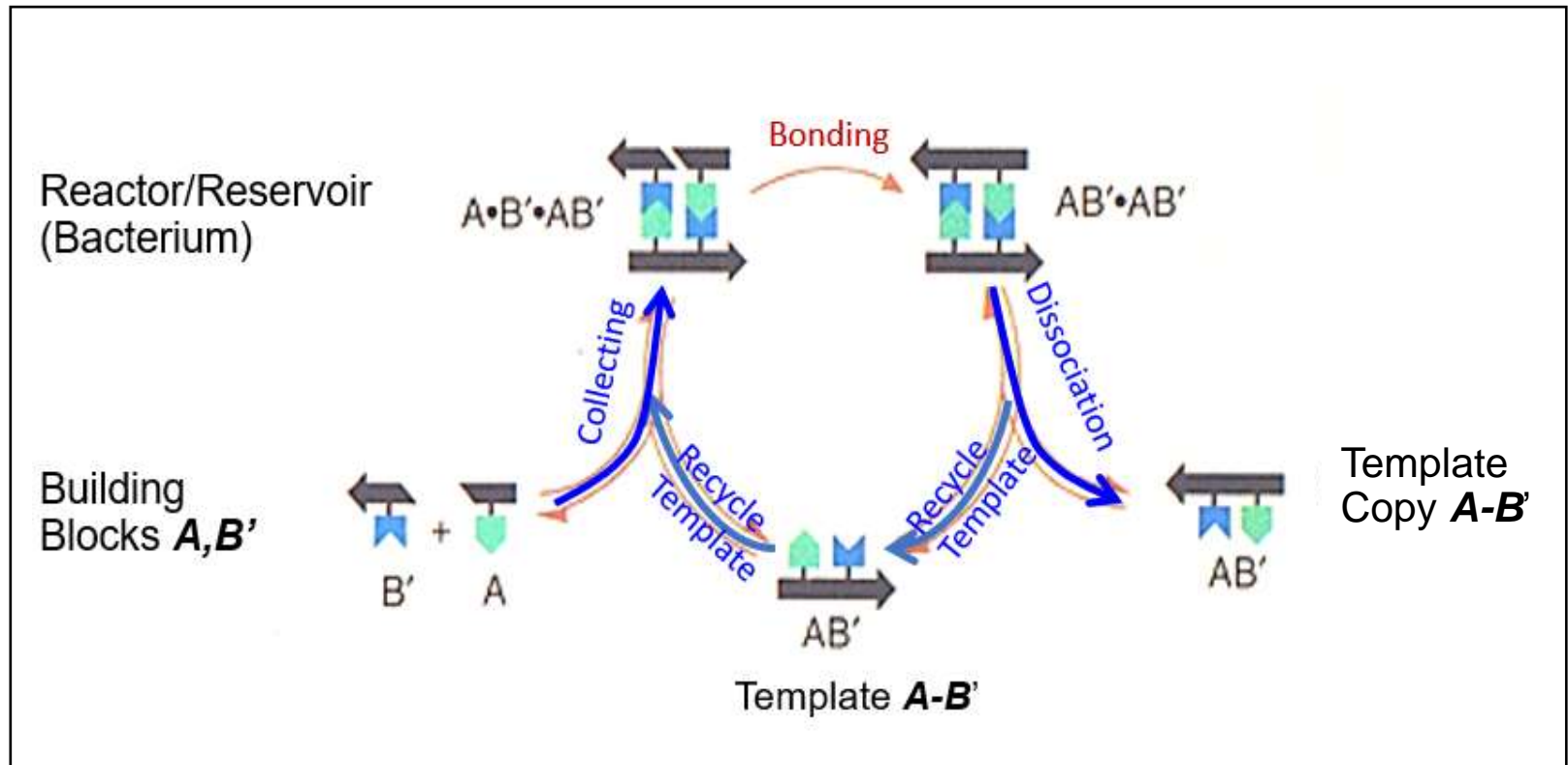
Similar oscillations: Lotka-Volterra

See computer codes in Kondepudi Ch. 19

Autocorrelation rxns →

# Autocatalytic Self-Replication: Schematic

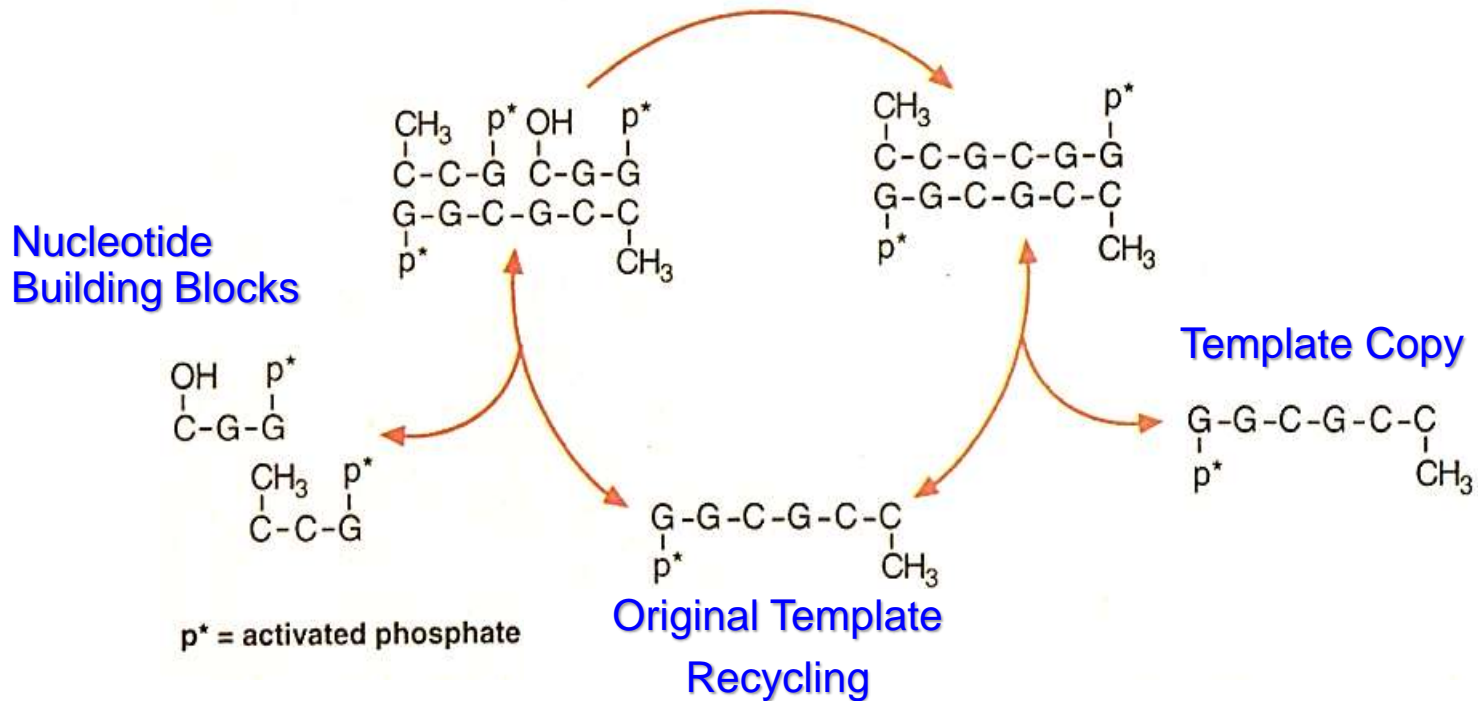
Autocatalytic self-replication with a template: Cycle attracts & combines separate building blocks **A & B'** available in environment (Reservoir) on a molecular template, dissociates template from its identical copy. Then re-cycles 2 templates in next cycle.



Each cycle makes another template copy  $\Delta N / \Delta n = \lambda \cdot N(n) \rightarrow$  exponential growth in numbers, inhibits/overpowers other competing processes.

# Autocatalytic Self-Replication: Complementary Base-Pairing

DNA template = palindromic (left-right self-complementary)



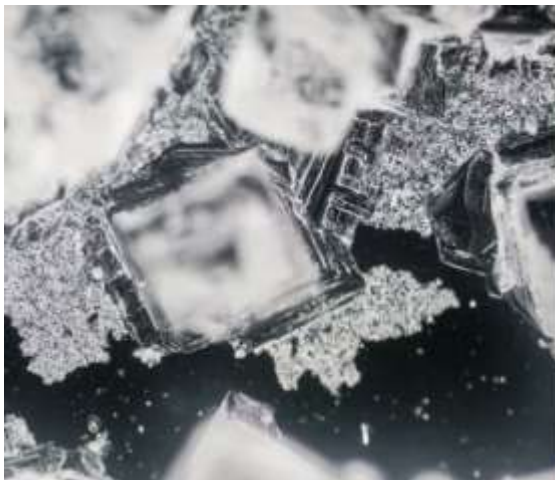
Use 2 nucleotide trimers to align and pair with hexa-DNA template, bind the two trimers → bound hexamer on template → Recover original template plus one copy.

Self-similar growth & fractal structures

# Replication & Self-Similar Complexity



Manganese dendrites on limestone



Precipitate from saturated solution

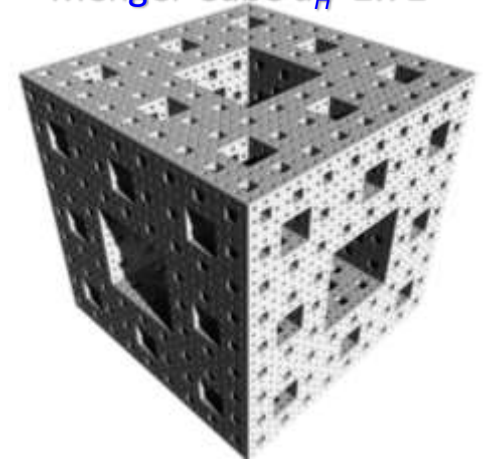
Cooperative replication processes and structures to which they lead

- self-organizing = (quasi-) orderly (predictable) behavior,
- co-operative growth can produce **fractal structures**,
- Only in the large amplitude limit (which?) complete disorder/chaos

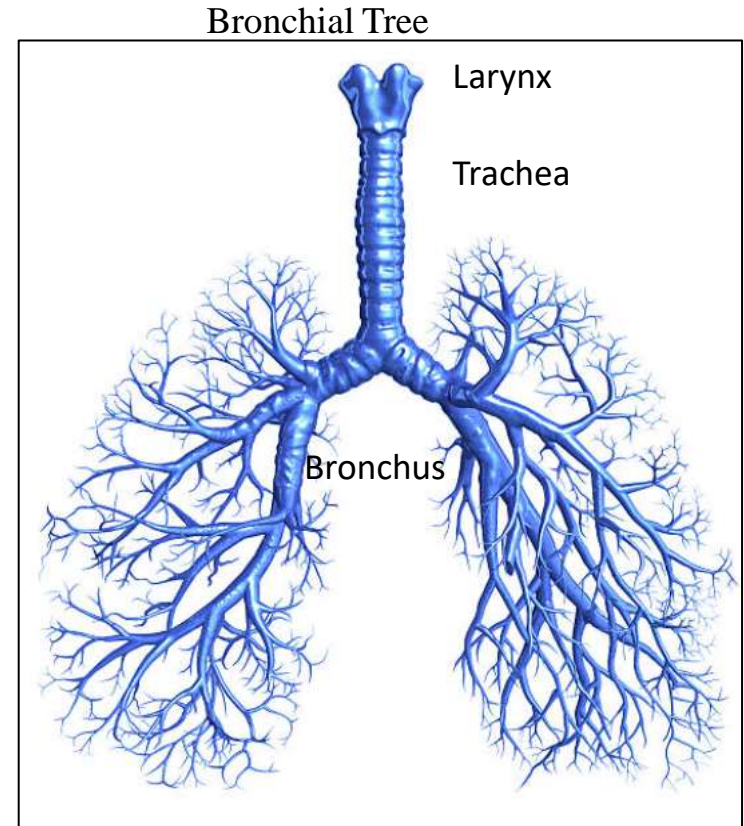
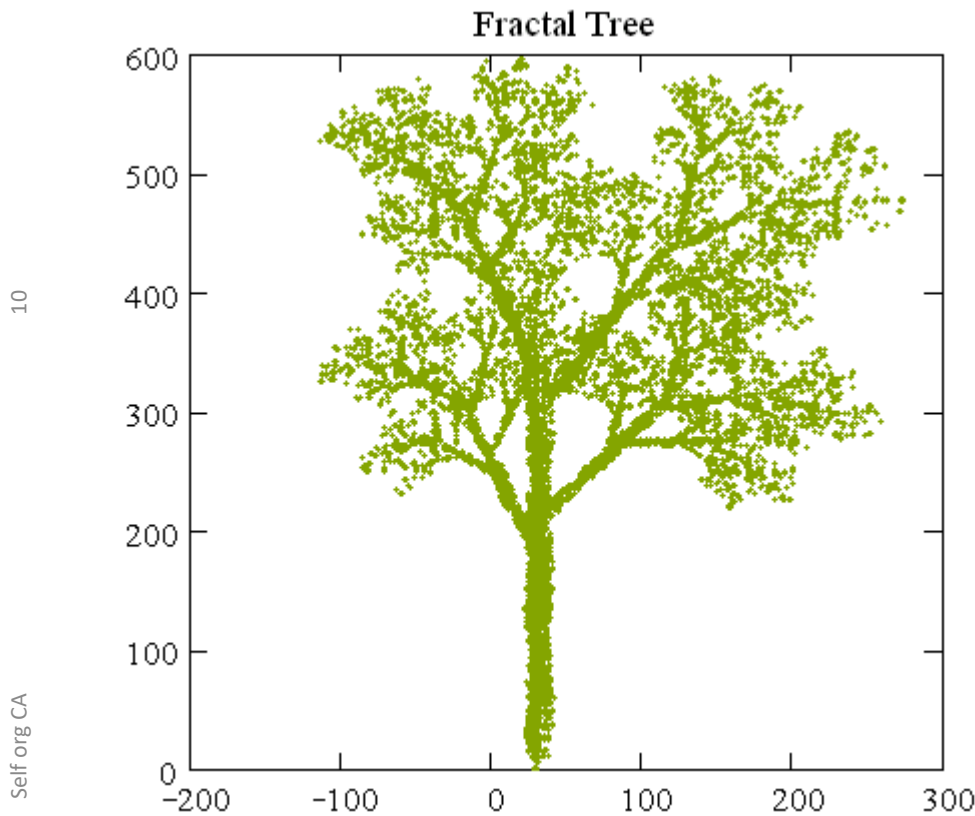
## Examples:

- Crystallization,
- Turbulence in fluids,
- Biological life (stem cells), morphology, ageing,
- Forest fire propagation,
- Urban areal development with population growth,
- Flow patterns of electrical currents in a power grid, ....
- Behavior of gas and liquids, diffusion, convection,
- .

## Menger Cube $d_H=2.72$



# Self-Replication Causes Self-Similar Fractal Structures



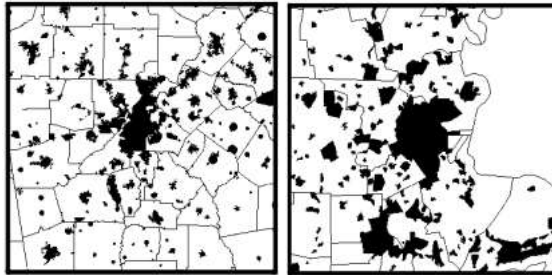
*Self – Similar Dynamics produces structures that repeat at different Scales*

*Example: Spatial correlation = distance  $|\vec{r}_1 - \vec{r}_2|$*

*Length scaling factor  $L_n$  or  $L(t_n)$*

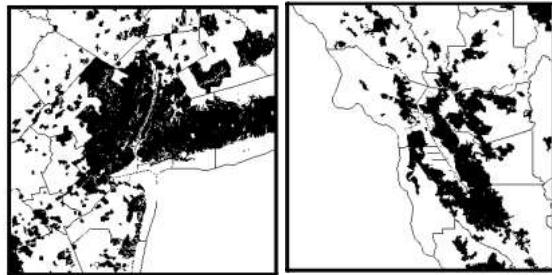
$$D_n(\vec{r}_1, \vec{r}_2) = G_n \cdot \left[ \frac{f(\vec{r}_1, \vec{r}_2)}{L_n} \right]$$

# Urban Growth Patterns and Forest Fires



Atlanta

Boston

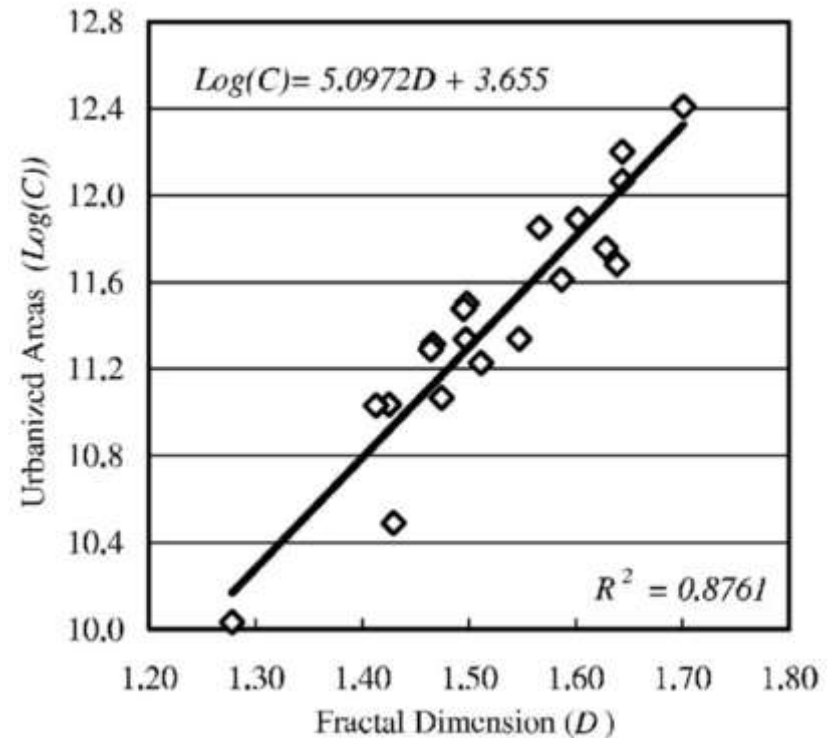


New York

San Francisco

Correlation between population size of 20 U.S. cities and occupied urban area.

Guoqiang Shen, Int. J. Geogr. Inf. Sci., 16, 419 (2002)



Los Angeles  
Fires 2025

Forests have fractal geometry: Obvious appearance plus volume of combustible materials is related to surface area via fractal dimension  $\rightarrow$  spread of forest fires.

# Mathematics of Self-Replication

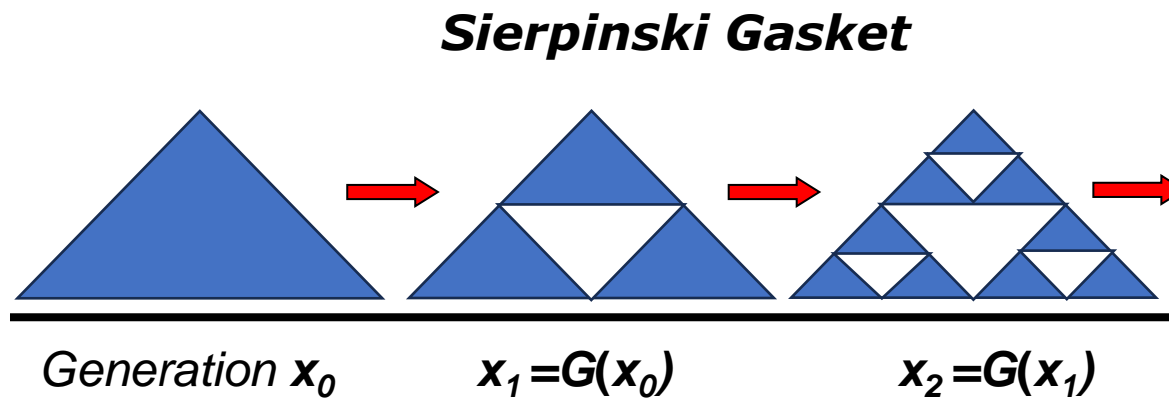
Represent replication structure by set of rules:

Simplest case rule  $\rightarrow$  function  $\mathbf{G}$ , "Parent" = Object  $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}_0$  starting series

3-fold division  $\rightarrow$  3 descendants  $\mathbf{x}_1 = \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{x}_0) = 3$  copies of  $\mathbf{x}_0$  @ 1:3 scale

Possible transformation (scaling, translation, ...)  $\rightarrow$  **Self-Similar Structures**

$$\mathbf{x}_n = \mathbf{G}^n(\mathbf{x}_0) = \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{x}_{n-1}) = \mathbf{G}[\mathbf{G}(\mathbf{x}_{n-2})] = \mathbf{G}\{\mathbf{G}[\mathbf{G}(\mathbf{x}_{n-3})]\} \rightarrow \mathbf{Map}$$

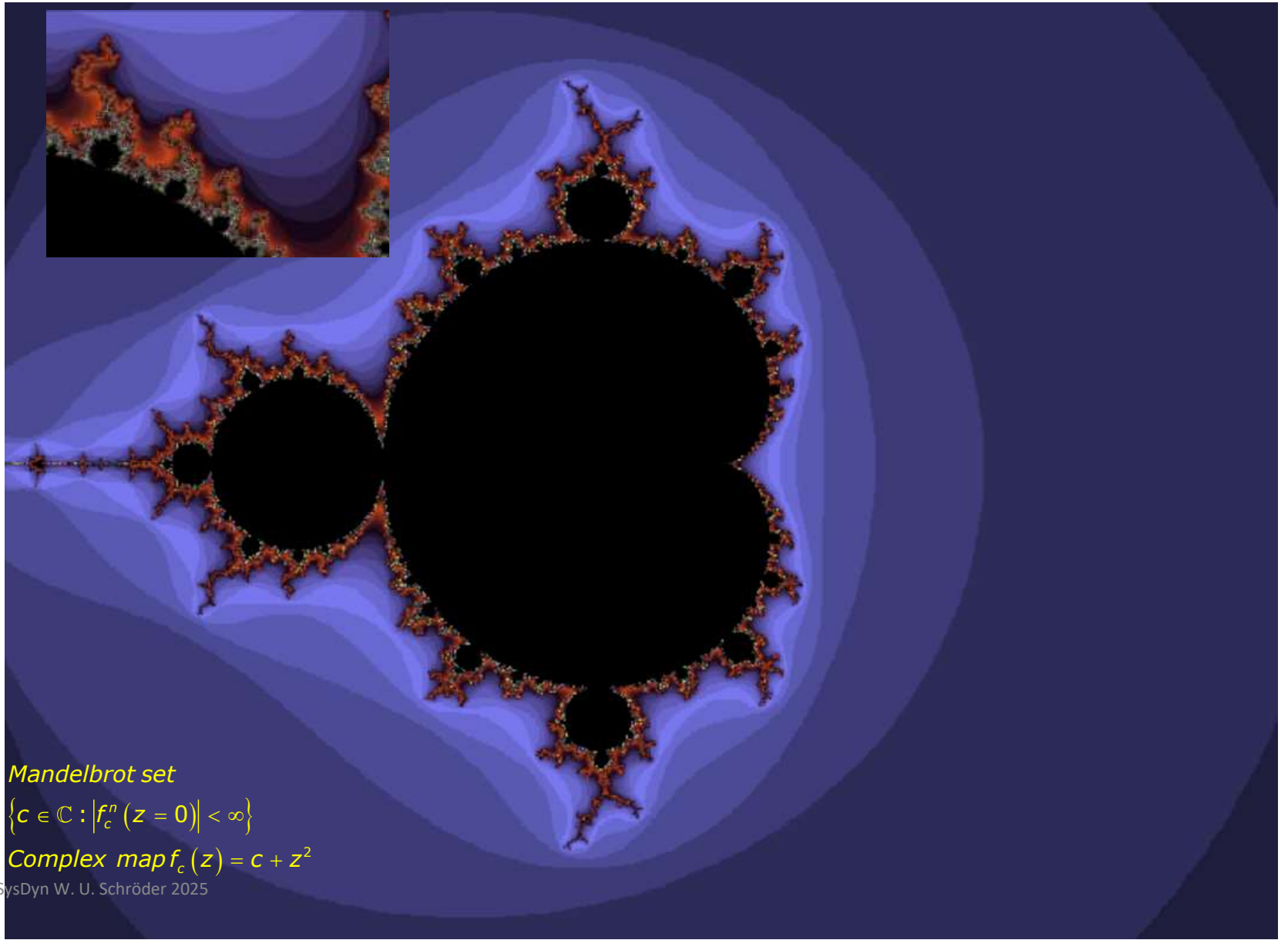
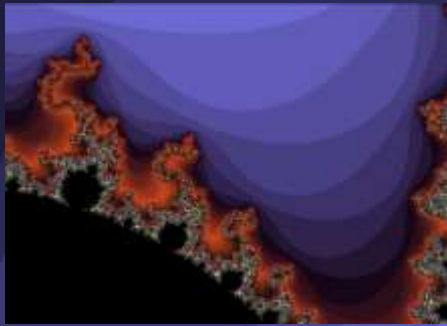


Fractal  
structures

[See  
tutorial](#)



# Fractal Mandelbrot Set



*Mandelbrot set*

$$\{c \in \mathbb{C} : |f_c^n(z=0)| < \infty\}$$

*Complex map*  $f_c(z) = c + z^2$

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## Next

Dynamics of interacting multi-particle systems

Molecular interaction energies

Random walk and diffusion,

Fluctuating (Langevin) forces

Boltzmann molecular chaos, gas laws

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# Modeling Self Replicating Processes

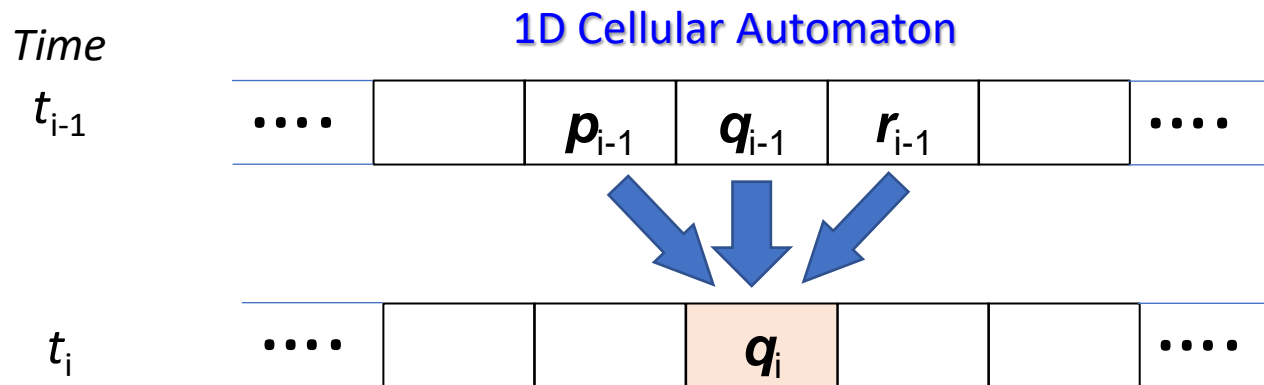
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- Cellular automata (CA) are used in many fields, including physics, biology, and social science. They are computational models that simulate how patterns evolve over time
- Cellular automata have found applications in traffic modeling, with the Nagel-Schreckenberg model being a well-known example (Nagel & Schreckenberg, 1992). They have also been used to model social dynamics, epidemics, and other complex phenomena (Bagnoli, 2005).
- A CA is a collection of colored cells or atoms on a grid of a specified shape. Each cell is in one of a finite number of states. This computational model is both abstract and spatially and temporally discrete.
- There are many types of CA. The simplest type is a binary, nearest-neighbor, one-dimensional automaton called elementary cellular automata. There are 256 such CAs.
- Diffusion, corrosion, epidemics
- Cellular Automata are discrete computational systems consisting of cells that evolve in parallel at discrete time steps, inspired by self-reproducing living organisms. They are used as models of complexity, for studying nonlinear dynamics, and can compute functions and solve algorithmic problems through local interactions.

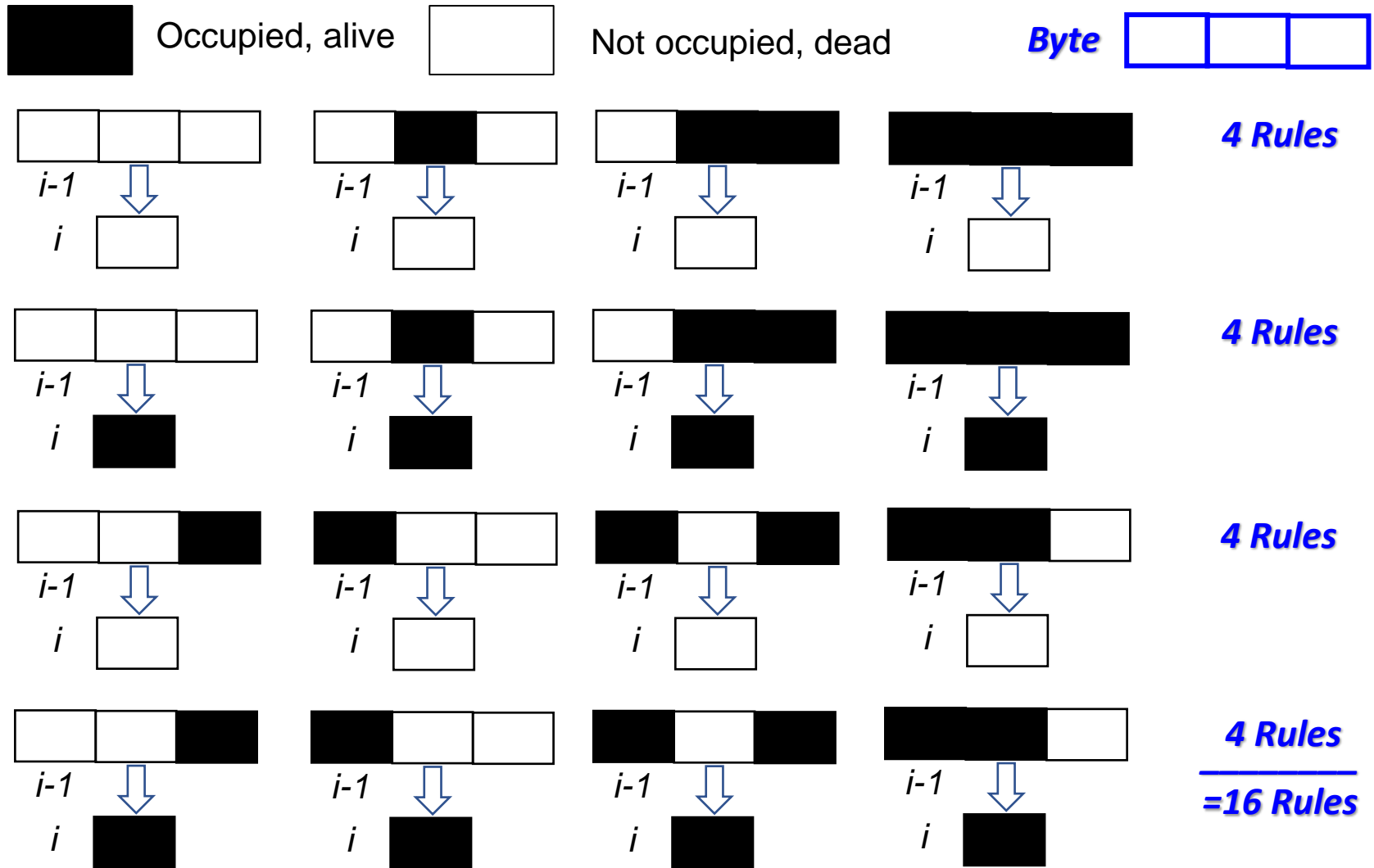
Cellular Automata-Based Modeling of Three-Dimensional Multicellular Tissue Growth, B. Ben Youssef

# CA Concept

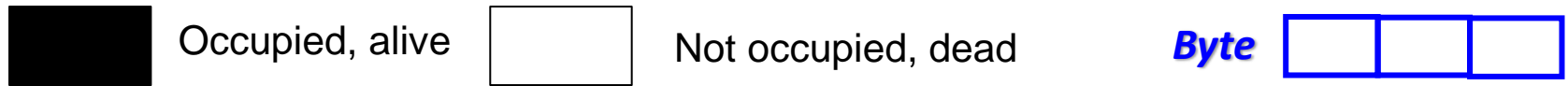
- The configuration (state) space of a system is approximated by an n-dimensional lattice of equal cells.
- Each cell has a finite number of discrete properties.
- Time evolution of CA system occurs (can be modeled) in discrete time steps  $\rightarrow$  generations.
- Evolution occurs to (a set of) strict deterministic rules.
- Evolution rules reference exclusively states of neighboring cells, reflect local environment.



# Classification of Propagation Rules

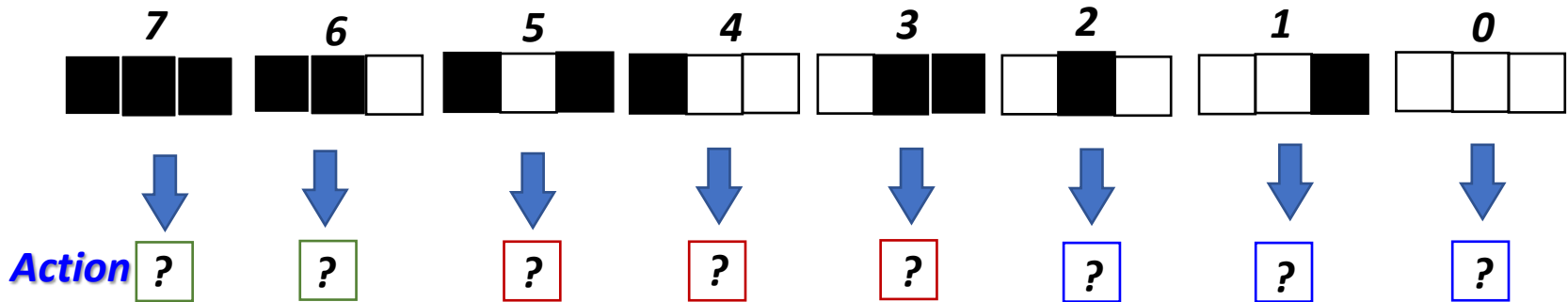


# Classification of Propagation Rules



Rearrange byte pattern in ascending order: bytes ordered in binary sequence

Condition of survival of a cell depends on the states of its own past and that of its two neighbors' past → depends on the past state of a triplet of 3 cells (=byte).

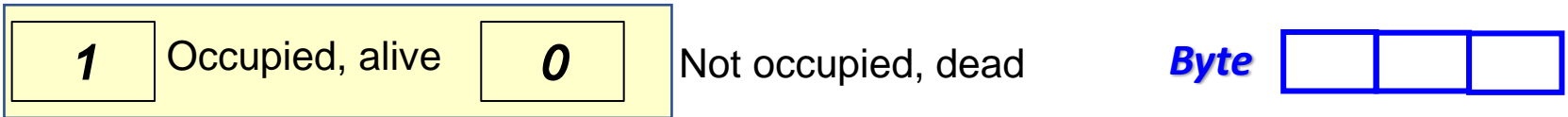


8 possible occupation patterns ( $\hat{=}$  0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7) for each byte.

**Any pattern in any one** of them & **any valid combination**, could produce an alive (= 1) cell or a dead (= 0) cell in the following time iteration step.

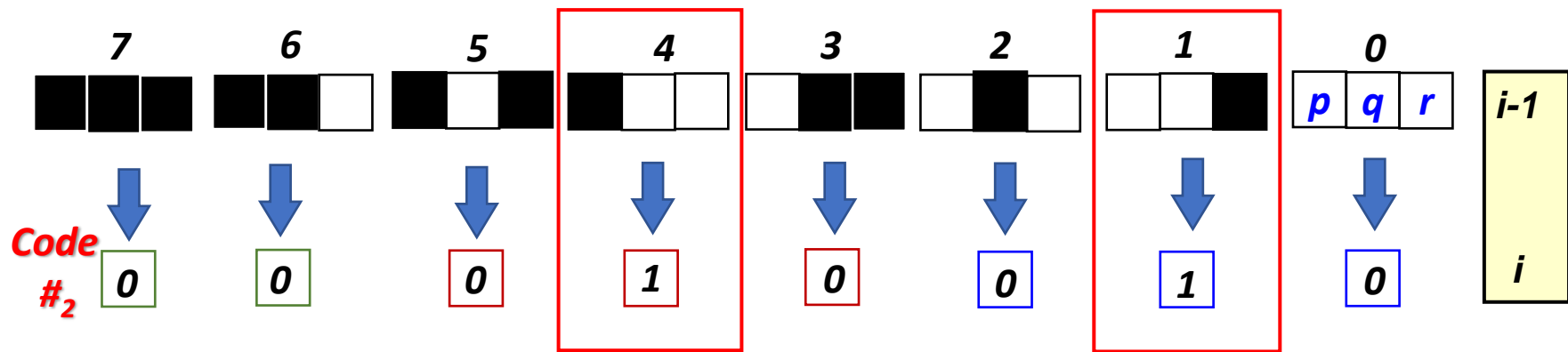
For 8 bytes, there are obviously 256 (0-255) possible conditions for an action (alive/dead). Complex preconditions for an action (0, 1) are defined by any combination (logic OR) of possible rules (represented by the set of all numbers 0, ..., 255).

# Classification of Propagation Rules



Rearrange byte pattern in ascending order: bytes ordered in binary sequence

Condition of survival of a cell depends on the states of its own past and that of its two neighbors' past → depends on the past state of a triplet of 3 cells (=byte).



Implies live for the cell in the next time step, if it the cell was **previously unoccupied and** had **only one alive neighbor** on the left or on one on the right, **but not on both sides.**

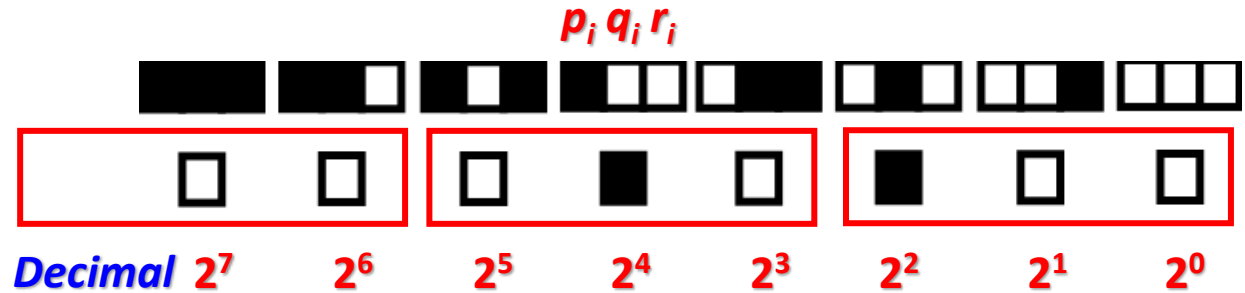
*Propagation pattern*

$$\text{Code \#}_{\text{binary}} = 10010_2 = (2^4 + 2^1) = 18_{10}$$

$$\rightarrow q_i = (p_{i-1} \oplus r_{i-1}) \wedge (\neg q_{i-1})$$

# Interpretation of Propagation Rules

CA code # =  $10100_2 = (2^4+2^2) = 20_{10}$



In the next time step,  
center cell ( $q_{i+1}$ ) is populated



if ( $p_i$ ) is  
occupied  
and ( $q_i$ ) is not  
and ( $r_i$ ) is not

if ( $q_i$ ) is  
occupied  
and ( $p_i$ ) is not  
and ( $r_i$ ) is not

Formal logic

$$q_{i+1} == (p_i \oplus q_i) \wedge \neg r_i$$

Truth Table ( $p \wedge \neg r$ )

$p \setminus r$	T	F
T	F	T
F	F	F

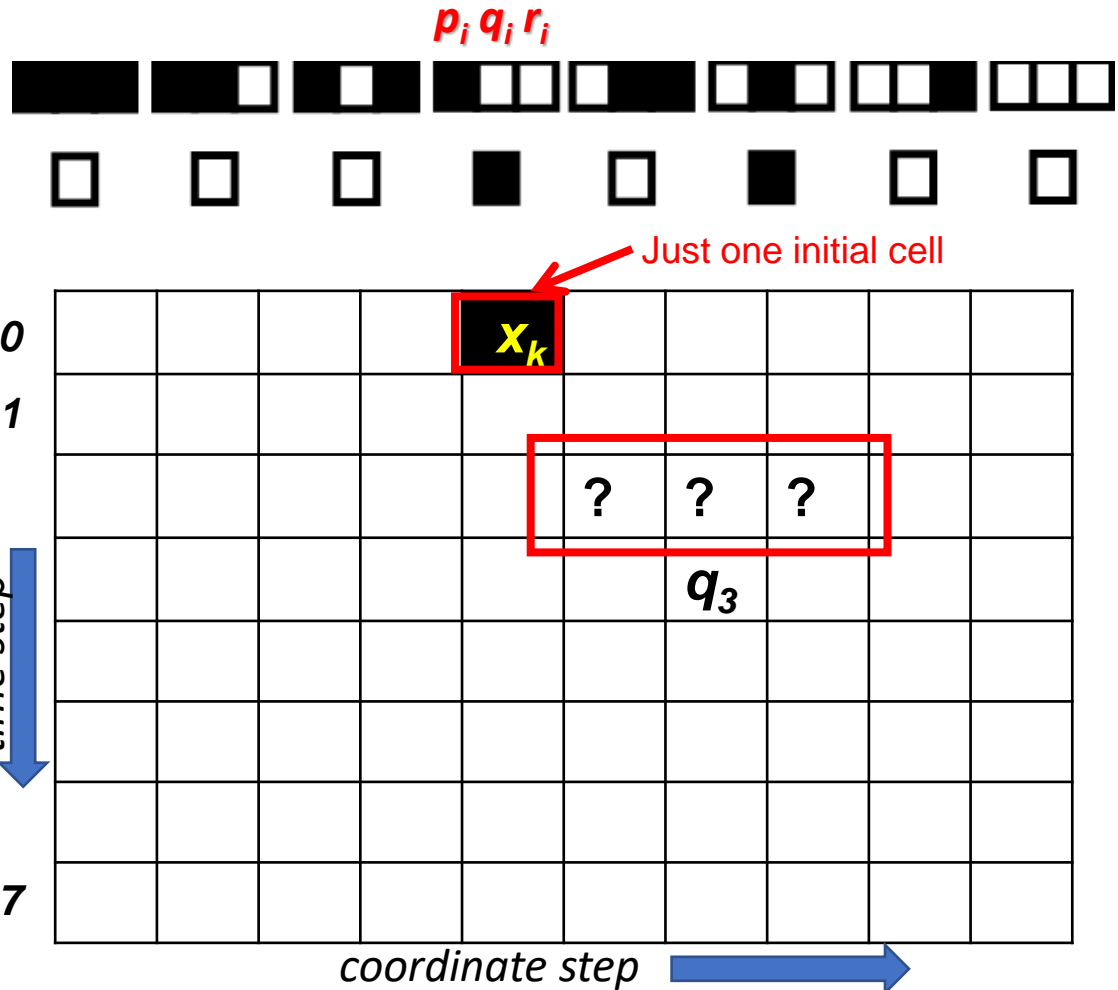


# Constructing the Propagation: CA 20

CA code # =  $10100_2 = (2^4+2^2) = 20_{10}$

## Procedure

1. Draw grid  $x(k)$  vs. *time* ( $i$ )
2. Load initial conditions, pattern  $x_k(i=0)$
3. Derive pattern  $x_k(i=1)$  from population of triplet  $\{x_{k-1}, x_k, x_{k+1}\}$  at ( $i=0$ )
4. Next row  $i$ .....
5. For self-replication, keep history

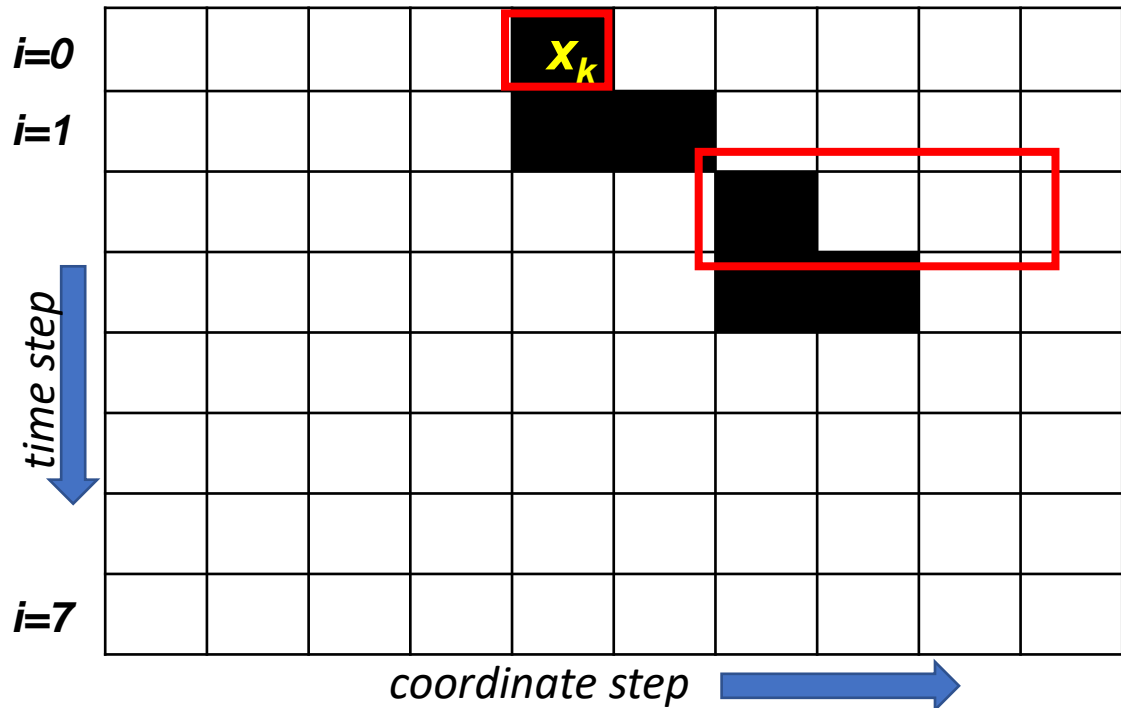
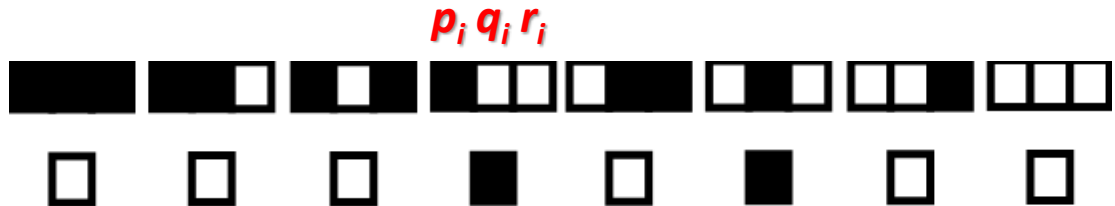


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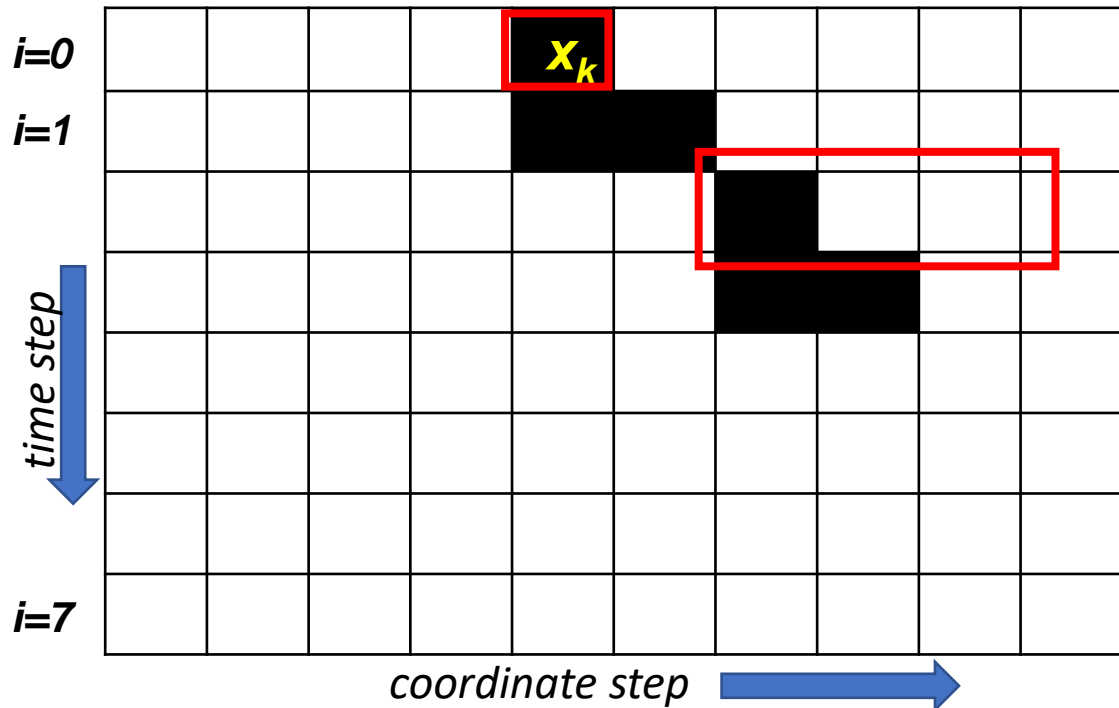
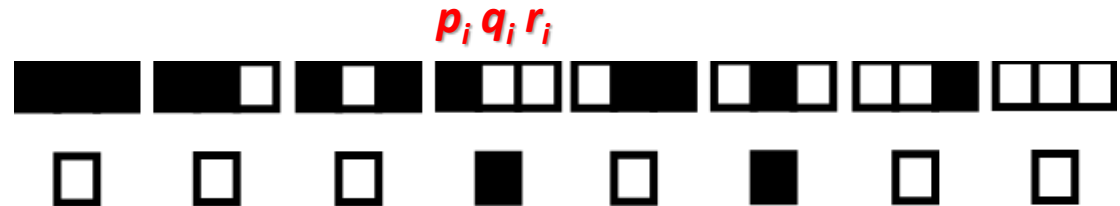


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4. Next row  $i$ .....
5. For self-replication, keep history



# Coding CA#20

Data: Either single valued initial condition or random with different intensity chosen by width of acceptance window for r  
 Rule numbers according to Stephen Wolfram (A New Science , Wolfram Media, 2002

$N := 200$  Data: Array size in x (N) and number of it

$M := 200$

$i := 1..N$

$j := 1..M$

$A_{i,j} := 0$

Initial values

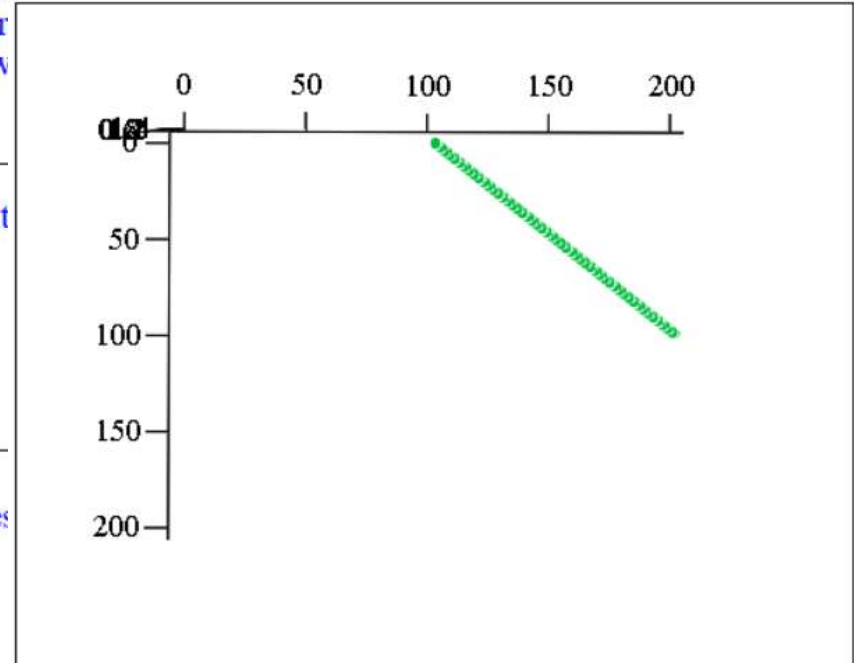
$A_{0,100} := 1$

$j := 1..M - 1$

Rule 20: (p Xor q) and not r

```

Ai,j := | a ← 0
          | p ← Ai-1,j-1
          | q ← Ai-1,j
          | r ← Ai-1,j+1
          | a ← 1 if (p = 1 ⊕ q = 1) ∧ [¬(r = 1)]
    
```



# Coding CA#30

$A_{i,j} := 0$

$A_{0,100} := 1$

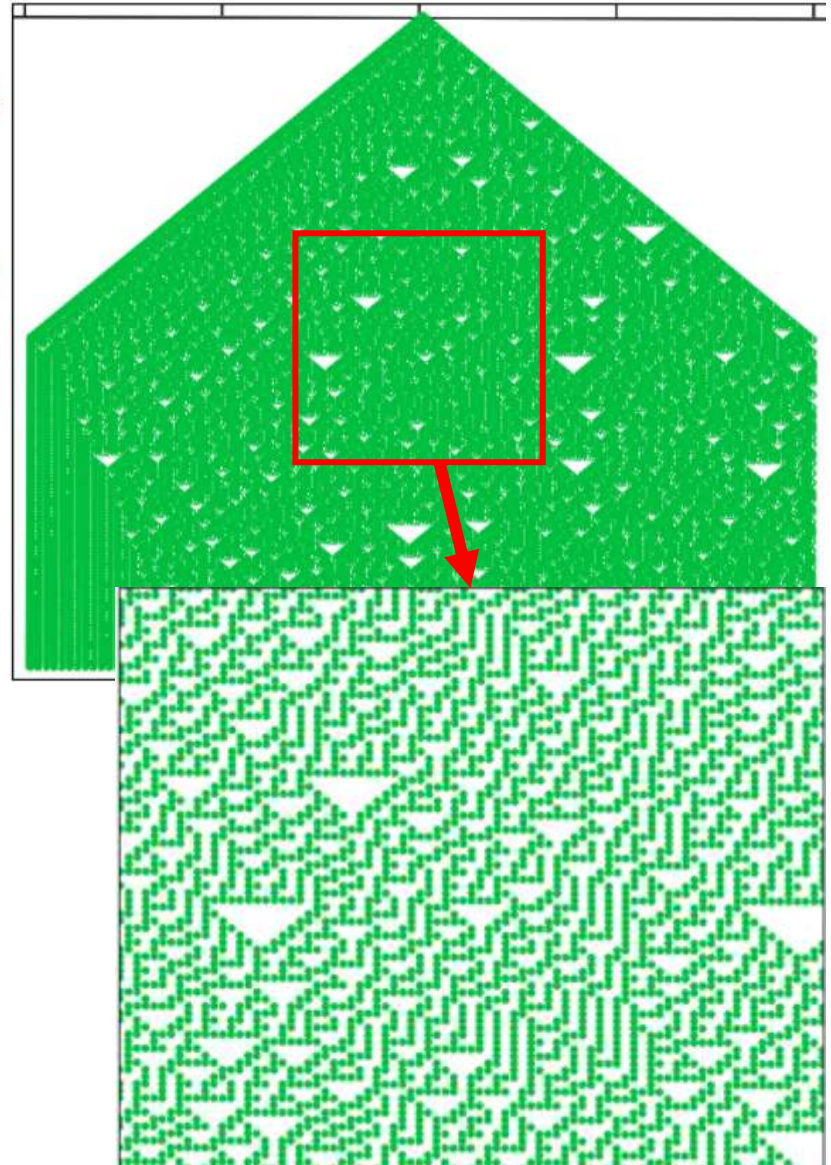
Initial values 1,0 +

$j := 1..M - 1$

Rule 30:  $p \text{ Xor } (q \text{ or } r)$   
random

$A_{i,j} :=$   $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} a \leftarrow 0 \\ p \leftarrow A_{i-1,j-1} \\ q \leftarrow A_{i-1,j} \\ r \leftarrow A_{i-1,j+1} \\ a \leftarrow 1 \text{ if } p = 1 \oplus (q = 1 \vee r = 1) \\ a \end{array} \right.$

**CA #30**, with one more condition.  
More complex pattern. Repetitive fine structure is observed at the rim of the triangle and upon blowup.



# Coding CA#90 Specific IC

$A_{i,j} := 0$

$A_{0,100} := 1$

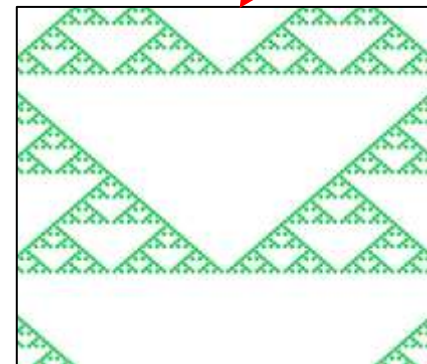
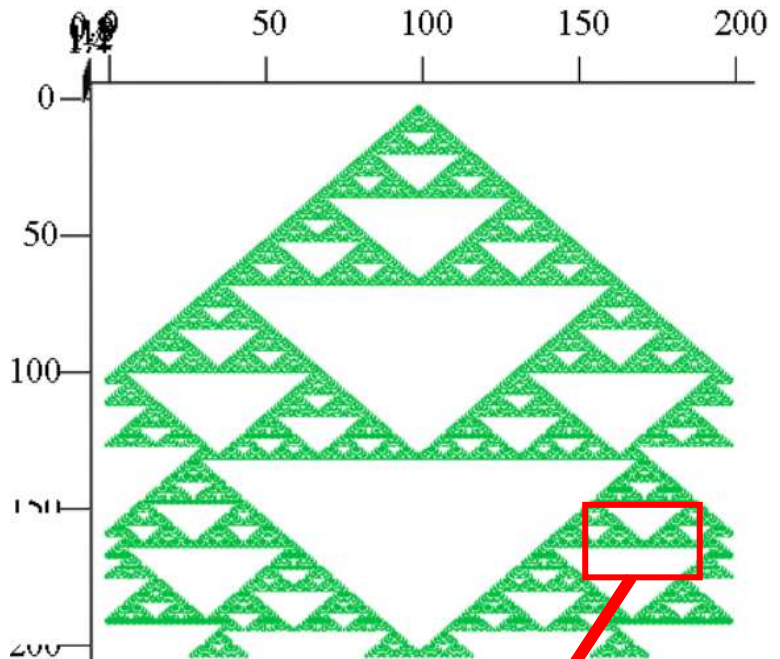
Initial values 1,0

$j := 1..M - 1$

$A_{i,j} :=$

$a \leftarrow 0$
$p \leftarrow A_{i-1,j-1}$
$q \leftarrow A_{i-1,j}$
$r \leftarrow A_{i-1,j+1}$
$a \leftarrow 1 \text{ if } (p = 1) \oplus (r = 1)$
$a$

Rule 90: p Xor r  
fractal structure



**CA #90**, could be expected to show similar randomness as automaton #30. Instead, a highly repetitive pattern of nested triangles results. Blow-up: persists at several length scales (self-similar/fractal).

# Coding CA#90 Specific Initial Conditions

$A_{i,j} := 0$

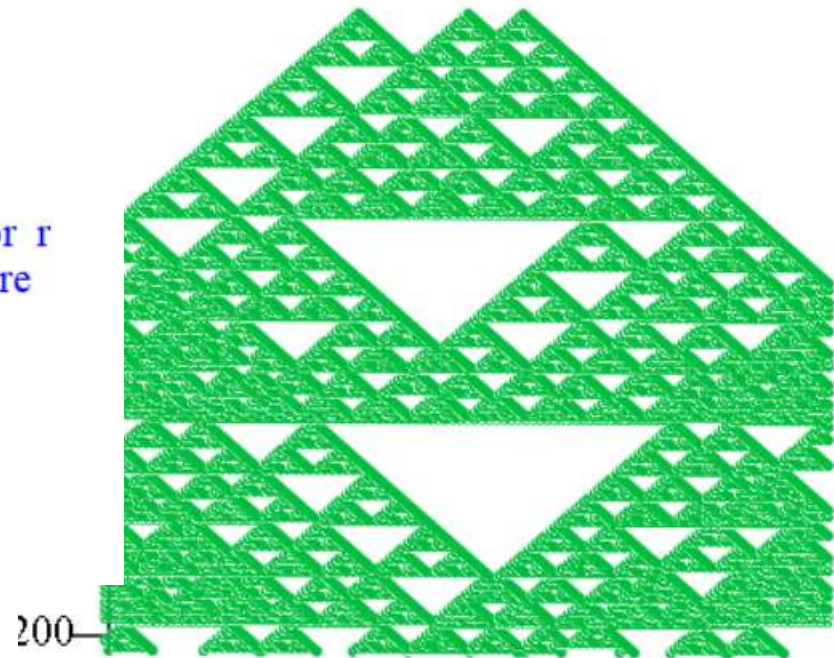
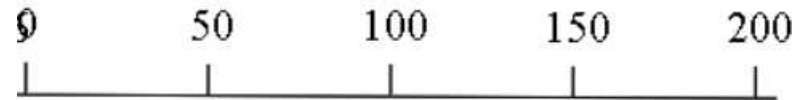
$A_{0,100} := 1$

$A_{0,70} := 1 \quad A_{0,110} := 1$

$j := 1..M - 1$

$A_{i,j} :=$   $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} a \leftarrow 0 \\ p \leftarrow A_{i-1,j-1} \\ q \leftarrow A_{i-1,j} \\ r \leftarrow A_{i-1,j+1} \\ a \leftarrow 1 \text{ if } (p = 1) \oplus (r = 1) \\ a \end{array} \right.$  Rule 90: p Xor r  
fractal structure

Initial values 1,0



**CA #90**, with **3 initial cells populated**.  
Fractal structure is modified but persists.

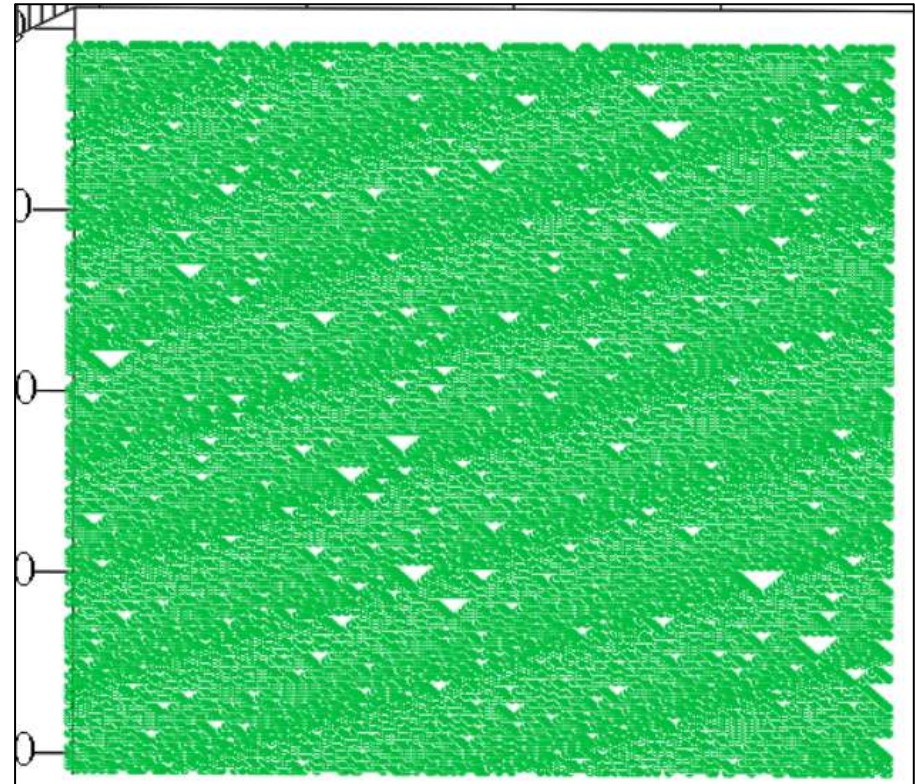
# Coding CA#90 Random IC

$A_{0,j} := \begin{cases} 0 & \text{Random initial values 1,0} \\ 1 & \text{if } \text{rnd}(1) > 0.5 \end{cases}$

$j := 1..M - 1$

$A_{i,j} := \begin{cases} a \leftarrow 0 \\ p \leftarrow A_{i-1,j-1} & \text{Rule 90: } p \text{ Xor } r \\ & \text{fractal structure} \\ q \leftarrow A_{i-1,j} \\ r \leftarrow A_{i-1,j+1} \\ a \leftarrow 1 \text{ if } (p = 1) \oplus (r = 1) \\ a \end{cases}$

**CA #90**, with random population of 50% of initial cells.  
Specific fractal structure is washed out, additional pattern appears on larger length scale.



Approximates Random chaos



# Summary

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**CA research:** 4 classes of automata,

- Class 1 reaches a homogeneous state (all cells free) after a few initial steps.
- Class 2 shows a periodic pattern after the first few steps, relatively independent of initial conditions.
- Class 3 develops into a chaotic pattern, independent of initial conditions.
- Class 4 produces a highly complex, nested fractal pattern.

Very specific, simple, localized microscopic interactions of coupled systems can lead to highly organized structure.

Pronounced fractal structure emerges from localized initial conditions (seeds).

Spread-out initial state conditions lead to washed out structures or chaos.

Because of their specific (unusual) geometrical shape (surface/volume), Class-4

CAs have functionality important for live, biomed and general technology.

Fractal dimensions

